

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for selecting a media processor to host a new conference,
5 comprising:
 - receiving an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference;
 - determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that
10 can be supported; and
 - determining one of said plurality of media processors to said host new conference based, at least in part, on said number of additional participants that each of said plurality of media processors can support.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported, includes determining a CurrentNbChannels value and a CurrentCPUUtil value for each of said plurality of media processors.
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3. The method of claim 2, wherein said determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that can be supported, includes determining a
25 NbChannels value for each of said plurality of media processors.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving an indication of a need for a media processor for a new conference includes receiving a request for allocation of a media processor for said new conference.
- 30 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - providing data indicative of said one of said plurality of media processors.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
allocating said one of said plurality of media processors to host
said new conference.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining a MaxCPUUtil value associated with said plurality of
media processors.

- 10 8. A method for selecting a media processor to host a new conference,
comprising:
receiving an indication of a need for a media processor for a new
conference;
determining, for each of a plurality of media processors under the
control of a multipoint controller, a current number of conference
15 participants and a current CPU utilization; and
determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said
new conference based, at least in part, on said current number of
conference participants and current CPU utilization for each of said
20 plurality of media processors.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of
media processors to host said new conference includes selecting one of said
plurality of media processors based on each of said plurality of media
25 processors ability to support participants in said new conference.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of
media processors to host said new conference includes selecting one of said
plurality of media processors that can support a highest number of participants
30 in said new conference.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein said determining one of said plurality of media processors to host said new conference includes determining a number of new participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors.

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12. The method of claim 11, wherein said determining a number of new participants that can be supported by each of said plurality of media processors includes determining a NbChannels value for each of said plurality of media processors.

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13. A system, comprising:

a multipoint controller, wherein said multipoint controller controls a plurality of media processors and said multipoint controller is adapted to select a first media processor from said plurality of media processors to support a new conference based on said first media processor's ability to support more additional participants than other media processors in said plurality of media processors.

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14. The system of claim 13, wherein at least two of said plurality of media processors are implemented in software and operate on different devices.

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15. The system of claim 13, wherein said multipoint controller is adapted to determine a current number of conference participants and a current CPU utilization for at least some of said plurality of media processors.

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16. The system of claim 13, wherein said multipoint controller is adapted to determine said first media processor's ability to support additional participants based, at least in part, on said first media processor's current number of conference participants and current CPU utilization.

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17. The system of claim 13, wherein said multipoint controller is adapted to determine a NbChannels value for said first media processor.

18. A system, comprising:
a processor;
a communication port coupled to said processor and adapted to
5 communicate with at least one device; and
a storage device coupled to said processor and storing instructions
adapted to be executed by said processor to:
receive an indication of a need for a media processor for a new
conference;
10 determine, for each of a plurality of media processors under
control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that
can be supported; and
determine one of said plurality of media processors to host said
new conference based, at least in part, on said number of additional
15 participants that each of said plurality of media processors can support.
19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said processor is further adapted to
provide data indicative of said one of said plurality of media processors.
20. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said processor is further adapted to
20 allocate said one of said plurality of media processors to host said new
conference.
21. An article of manufacture comprising:
25 a computer readable medium having stored thereon instructions which,
when executed by a processor, cause said processor to:
receive an indication of a need for a media processor for a new
conference;
determine, for each of a plurality of media processors under
30 control of a multipoint controller, a number of additional participants that
can be supported; and

determine one of said plurality of media processors to said host new conference based, at least in part, on said number of additional participants that each of said plurality of media processors can support.